CLAIMS

1. A computer system comprising:

a cabinet having a closure configured to be substantially airtight when closed;

a personal computer positioned within the cabinet; and

a cooling unit positioned within the cabinet, the cooling unit configured to draw air from a first region of the cabinet, cool the air and output the air into a second region of the cabinet.

2. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:

a gasket positioned in a space between an inner surface of the cabinet and an outer surface of the personal computer, configured to prevent passage of air between the personal computer and the inner surface of the cabinet, from the second region to the first region.

3. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:

disk drive positioned within the computer, the cabinet including an access panel for access to the disk drive.

4. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:

video monitor coupled to the computer via a cable; and

an opening in the cabinet for receiving the cable.

5. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:

a jump cable coupled at a first end to a port of the computer, and coupled at a second end to a port in a wall of the cabinet.

6. An environmental control unit for a personal computer comprising:

an enclosure configured to substantially enclose the computer; and

an air conditioning unit configured to draw air into the unit, cool the air to within a selected range of temperatures, and blow the air into the enclosure.

7. The control unit of claim 6 wherein the air conditioning unit is configured to draw air from a first region of the enclosure and blow the air into a second region of the enclosure.

8. The unit of claim 7, further comprising:

means for preventing circulation of air within the enclosure and around an exterior of a case of the personal computer from the second region of the enclosure to the first region of the enclosure.

9. The unit of claim 8 wherein the preventing means comprises:

a gasket configured to substantially seal a space between an interior surface of the enclosure and an exterior surface of the personal computer case, on three sides of the case.

10. The unit of claim 6 wherein the air conditioning unit is configured to selectively draw air from a first region of the enclosure or draw air from the exterior of the enclosure, while air from the first region of the enclosure is vented to the exterior, and wherein the unit is further configured to blow the air into a second region of the enclosure.

11. The unit of claim 10, further comprising:

means for comparing the temperature of air in the first region of the enclosure with the temperature of air outside the enclosure;

and a control circuit coupled to the comparing means to control the region from which the air is selected.

12. The unit of claim 6, further comprising a port for access to a front side of the personal computer case.

13. The unit of claim 6, further comprising:

an aperture in a wall of the enclosure for passage of cables.

14. The unit of claim 6, further comprising:

a cable port located in a wall of the enclosure and configured to receive a jump cable for coupling the cable port to a service port of the computer, the cable port comprising a jump port configured to receive a service connection.

15. The unit of claim 6, further comprising:

a filter configured to remove contaminants from air drawn into the air conditioning unit.

16. The unit of claim 6, further comprising:

a thermostat configured to control operation of the air conditioning unit according to a level of the temperature of the air in the enclosure .

17. The unit of claim 6 wherein the enclosure is configured to substantially enclose a plurality of personal computers.

18. The unit of claim 6 wherein the personal computer is separately encased in a tower case.

19. The unit of claim 6, further comprising:

a back-up ventilation system configured to operate in response to a failure of the air conditioning unit.

20. A computer, comprising:

a chassis configured to receive computer components;

a cover configured to enclose the chassis and components; and

a refrigeration unit configured to draw air from a first region of the chassis, cool the air to within a selected temperature range, and output the cooled air into a second region of the chassis.

21. The computer of claim 20, further comprising a motherboard, a hard drive, and a power supply, each coupled to the chassis.

22. The computer of claim 20, further comprising a disk drive coupled to the chassis, the cover being configured to provide access to the disk drive from outside the cover.

23. The computer of claim 20 wherein the cover includes a video port and the system further comprises a video monitor coupled to the video port via a cable.

24. A method of cooling a personal computer, comprising:

drawing air into a cooling unit coupled to an enclosure;

cooling the air;

blowing the air from the cooling unit to a first region within the enclosure;

drawing the air from the first region into the personal computer positioned within the enclosure;

transferring heat from components within the personal computer case to the air; and

moving the air from the personal computer to a second region within the enclosure.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the drawing air into the cooling unit step comprises:

drawing air from the second region into the cooling unit.

26. The method of claim 24, further comprising:

exhausting the air outside the enclosure, and

the drawing air into the cooling unit step comprises drawing air from outside the enclosure, into the cooling unit.

27. The method according to claim 24 wherein the step of moving the air includes:

Blowing the air with a fan at an exhaust location in the personal computer case to remove air from the personal computer.